

---

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY  
Spring 2017 POLS 4464/4990  
Course Syllabus  
Last updated on January 9, 2017

---

## Information

- Professor: Dr. Pechenkina
- Class meeting: T & Th at 3:00PM - 4:15PM in MAIN 304
- Office: 328D Old Main
- Email: [anna.pechenkina@usu.edu](mailto:anna.pechenkina@usu.edu)  
This is my primary method of communication. I will respond within 24 hrs on weekdays and 48 hrs on weekends.
- Office Hours: Thursdays at 10AM to 12PM and by appointment  
Also, always happy to answer any questions after class. To make an appointment outside the office hours, please see me after class or send me an email.
- Office Phone: 435.797.7318  
Please do not leave voice mail, send me an email instead.

## Description

Have you ever wondered why, most of the time, governments can settle their conflicts of interests peacefully, yet some of the conflicts of interests escalate to armed violence and war? This is puzzling, especially if you consider that every war ends in some sort of settlement, therefore, shouldn't rational opponents reach a settlement without paying the cost of blood and treasure? Furthermore, why do nuclear weapons matter, if we do not expect anyone to use them? Or, what is the point of US participating in the UN if it is a "toothless" organization? Why do states sign climate deals if there is no worldwide police to enforce them? Finally, why do we see a rise in civil wars in the past decades and what is the difference between interstate wars and civil wars? These and other questions will be answered in the International Security course.

## Course objectives

1. To gain factual knowledge about terminology, classifications, methods, and trends in the field of International Security.
2. To learn to analyze and critically evaluate ideas and arguments expressed by scholars of International Security.
3. To further develop skill in expressing oneself in writing.

## Readings

There is no textbook to buy. All readings are available through [USU Canvas](#).

## Course website

Course information, syllabus, and assignments are available at [USU Canvas](#).

## Earning grades

**Exams (55%):** There will be two non-cumulative examinations, based on the assigned readings and class material. The exam questions will be in multiple-choice and short-answer format. If you wish to discuss your exam, please schedule a meeting with me no later than five (5) business days after grades have been posted.

**One-minute papers (5%):** One-minute papers are thought papers or activities based on lecture material, and can be administered at any time during the class period, on random days throughout the semester. Some of the papers will be straightforward reading quizzes, others may have no right answers, but those must demonstrate thoughtful responses to the question. Over the semester, 11 one-minute papers will be administered at random; a total of 10 one-minute papers are required for your grade. Each one minute paper is worth 5 points. You will not be penalized for not completing the remaining 11th paper, but completing all 11 one-minute papers will provide extra credit (with a maximum of 5 extra credit points). If you wish to discuss your grade on a one-minute paper, please schedule a meeting with me no later than five (5) business days after grades have been posted. There are NO make-ups for one-minute papers, without exceptions.

**In-class participation (5%):** The semester participation grade will be an average of all participation grades accumulated over the semester.

- A: attends class regularly and always contributes to the discussion by bringing up relevant questions and providing thoughtful commentary.
- B: attends class regularly and frequently contributes.
- C: attends class regularly and sometimes contributes.
- D: attends class regularly but never contributes.

**To prepare for one-minute papers and class participation, you will need to complete the assigned readings before each class meeting.** To comprehend the readings better, come to class prepared to share your answers to these questions regarding each reading:

- What is the research question?
- What is the author's argument?
- What is the author's evidence?
- Strong/weak points of the paper?

**Research paper (35%):** We will discuss the paper in greater detail around the time of the first midterm. Generally, your assignment is to choose some past war or wars (either inter- or intra-state), and apply one or more of the topics from class to that war or wars. Your topic(s) must be related to those we discussed in the class. The objective is to use the ideas from that topic (e.g., uncertainty, commitment problem, deterrence, counterinsurgency tactics, etc. to shed light on the

war or wars you have chosen to focus on. Specifically, you have two options for your research paper. Either you may:

1. choose a single topic that we have discussed and apply that topic to two wars; or
2. choose a single war, and apply two of the topics we have discussed in this class to that war.

The assignment is then to discuss the topic(s) in the context of the war(s) you choose. For example, under the first option, you might explore the role of alliances in WWI and WWII respectively, or counterinsurgency tactics that the US employed in Vietnam and in Iraq respectively. Under the second option, you might contrast how commitment problems played out in Israel's decision to attack Egypt preemptively in 1967 Six Day War and not to attack Syria first in 1973 Yom Kipur War.

The research paper is worth 350 points total which will be distributed across 6 separate assignments. Each written assignments needs to be typed up and printed out as a hard copy (and as an e-copy for the full paper assignment) and submitted at the beginning of the class period when it is due. Make sure to read the *Research Paper Assignment* for specific guidelines (to be distributed during week 2).

The final paper will be 7-10 or 20-30 pages in length, depending on whether you take this course as 4464 or 4990.

All submissions are due by 11:59PM of the day listed via Canvas. Please use a plagiarism check online, as Canvas (Turnitin assignment format) does this for me automatically and highlights all passages that are quoted from any source. Do not hesitate to ask me about the standards for citations or anything else.

Most of your final paper grade will be based on content and organization. However, spelling and grammar will count for one letter grade of your paper. Thus, a B paper with many errors will receive a C. Papers must be word-processed, 12 point type, double-spaced, must have 1 inch margins, use Times New Roman font, and must have page numbers on them. Please use the [MLA guidelines for citations](#). Students, who will consult with the [USU Writing Center](#), will receive extra credit.

The research paper includes the following written and in-class assignments:

1. Research question is due 1/24 and worth 17.5 points, i.e., 5% of your research paper total grade;
2. Preliminary theories and evidence are due 2/14 and worth 35 points, i.e., 10% of your research paper total grade;
3. Peer review of preliminary theories and evidence is in class on 3/2 and worth 35 points, i.e., 10% of your research paper total grade;
4. Detailed paper outline and bibliography are due 3/16 and worth 35 points, i.e., 10% of your research paper total grade;
5. Presentation of your research paper to the class, 35 points, i.e., 10% of your research paper total grade;

6. Complete paper is worth 192.5 points, i.e., 55% of your research paper total grade:
- (a) If submitted by 11:59PM on 4/7, you'll receive a letter grade, comments and an opportunity to rewrite. Rewritten papers may be submitted any time until 11:59PM on 5/4.
  - (b) If submitted by 11:59PM on 4/18, you'll receive a letter grade and extensive comments.
  - (c) If submitted by 11:59PM on 5/2, you'll receive a letter grade and minimal comments.

### Evaluation

Assignment:	Max Points:	Your Points:	Percent of Grade:
Exam 1	250	_____	25%
Exam 2	300	_____	30%
Research Paper:	350	_____	35%
(a) Research Question	17.5	_____	
(b) Preliminary theories and evidence	35	_____	
(c) Peer review	35	_____	
(d) Detailed paper outline	35	_____	
(e) Presentation	35	_____	
(f) Complete paper	192.5	_____	
One-Minute Papers	50	_____	5%
In-class participation	50	_____	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1000</b>		<b>100%</b>

### Grades

Grades:	Percent:
A	93 - 100%
A-	90 - 92.99%
B+	87 - 89.99%
B	83 - 86.99%
B-	80 - 82.99%
C+	77 - 79.99%
C	73 - 76.99%
C-	70 - 72.99%
D+	67 - 69.99%
D	63 - 66.99%
D-	60 - 62.99%
F	59.9% and below

**Reviews:** We will hold regular review sessions, during which students will have a unique opportunity to work on exam-like problems in groups and receive instant feedback from the instructor. While these sessions are not graded, they constitute an important component of the course. We will discuss further details on group formation, group work, and the format of review guides before the first review session.

## Academic Conduct

An academic integrity violation (e.g., cheating, falsification, or plagiarism) will result in a failing grade for the assignment. If another instance of violation occurs, it will result in a failing grade for the course. Below is an excerpt from the [USU Student Code of Conduct](#) with definitions of related terms, consult the full text for additional information.

Cheating:

1. using or attempting to use or providing others with any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, examinations, or in any other academic exercise or activity, including working in a group when the instructor has designated that the quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity be done individually;
2. depending on the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments;
3. substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for oneself, in taking an examination or preparing academic work;
4. acquiring tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty member, staff member, or another student without express permission;
5. continuing to write after time has been called on a quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity;
6. submitting substantially the same work for credit in more than one class, except with prior approval of the instructor; or
7. engaging in any form of research fraud.

Falsification: altering or fabricating any information or citation in an academic exercise or activity.

Plagiarism: representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one's own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes using materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in the sale of term papers or other academic materials.

## Disability

If you wish to request an accommodation due to a documented disability, please visit the [USU Disability Resource Center](#) as soon as possible.

## Missed Exams

Students may not make up missed exams, except for three cases:

1. Participation in a university-sponsored event. In this case, a student should provide documentation and schedule a make up date at least a week in advance of the original administration.
2. Documented medical emergency. In this case, a student should provide documentation within two business days of expiration and schedule a make up date within three business days of the original administration or the expiration of the documented excuse if that date is later.

3. Any reason with a –20% grade penalty. This provision needs to be invoked in person or by email by 4:00 PM on exam day. The student invoking this provision should provide a list of available times to make up the exam the following business day, with a completion time of no later than 4:00 PM that day.

It is the student's responsibility to ensure that any applicable procedures are followed.

### **Late research paper assignments**

All written assignments will be marked down 1% for each hour that they are late.

### **Syllabus Change Policy**

The syllabus is subject to change with notice.

### **Course Schedule**

**All readings and assignments are posted on Canvas.**

The following topics will be covered in the course:

- Primer on Scientific Method and Conflict
  - Explanations and evidence
  - Structural vs. strategic explanations. The inefficiency of war
  - Information and commitment problem. Fighting as a Process
  - How wars end and war outcomes
- International Security
  - Conventional deterrence
  - Extended deterrence
  - Nuclear deterrence
  - Nuclear proliferation
  - International organizations. United Nations Security Council
  - International agreements. Kyoto Protocol
  - The behavior of democracies and autocracies in the international arena
- Subnational Security
  - Similarities between inter- and intrastate conflicts
  - Differences between inter- and intrastate conflicts
  - The effect of the end of Cold War on intrastate conflicts
  - Counterinsurgency